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(54) SHOWER PARTITION WALL

(75) HEINZ GEORG BAUS

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(57) Claim 1. A support frame member adapted for use with a rigid shower partition wall, said member comprising a main body portion having a channel shaped section including opposed side portions and a web portion, one side portion on one side of the web portion and another side portion on the other side of the web portion, the channel section being open at one side opposed to the web portion thereby defining a mounting means for the rigid partition wall, and a recess located on the outer face in use of one of the side portions which is adapted to receive an interchangeable facing element in use, said recess having means for releasably mounting the facing element within the recess, the facing element being composed of a different material than the frame member.

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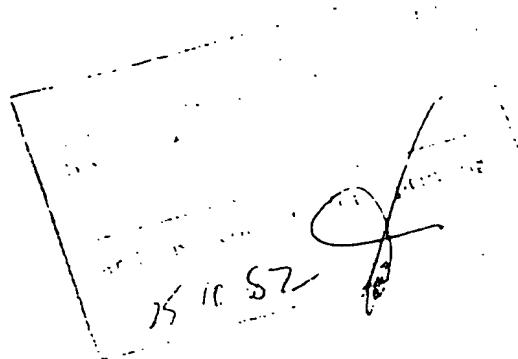
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Name of Applicant: HEINZ GEORG BAUS

Address of Applicant: Wartbodenstrasse 35, CH-3626
Hünibach-Thun, Switzerland

Actual Inventor(s): HEINZ GEORG BAUS

Address for Service: DAVIES & COLLISON, Patent Attorneys,
1 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000

Petty Patent Specification for the invention entitled:

"SHOWER PARTITION WALL"

The following statement is a full description of this invention,
including the best method of performing it known to me :-

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The invention relates to a shower partition wall with at least two profile rails which are arranged particularly in an orthogonal fashion and preferably connected to one another by corner joints.

5 A known shower partition wall with so called corner entrance is constructed from frame profile rails, whereby two door elements are arranged orthogonally with respect to one another and are guided in upper and lower profile rails. Further profile rails are
10 provided for fastening to the wall of the building; these rails are connected by known conventional fastening means to the other profile rails mentioned. The profile rails can be connected to one another by corner joints or they may have a mitre joint. Such a shower partition
15 wall will stop the water escaping from the shower cubicle when the door elements are shut.

The outer surface of the profile rails, made particularly of extruded aluminium, are rather susceptible to contamination by dirt and other impurities, whereby
20 the general impression of the shower partition wall can be spoilt by scratches or other damage. Similar difficulties arise with shower partition walls which

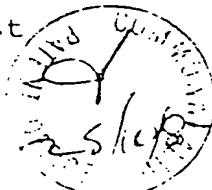
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have the door elements sliding parallel to one another, a side wall then, arranged in rectangle to the door elements, constituting the closure towards the wall of the building. There
5 are shower partition walls widely known which have the door elements arranged in more or less one plane between two walls of the building with specially constructed profile rails. All these designs of shower partition walls run the danger
10 that the surfaces of the profile rails are damaged so, that the viewer's general impression is influenced in a disadvantageous way.

The task of the present invention is, therefore, to so design a shower partition wall, in particular
15 the profile rails, that the outer surfaces turned towards the viewer are reliably protected against damage and ~~contamination~~, thus achieving a ~~pleasant~~ optimal appearance throughout the life of the
shower partition wall.



20 Furthermore, profile rails and corner joints should be adaptable to mounting conditions, whereby the manufacturer can save the costs of manufacturing and storing profile rails and corner joints for different outer surfaces. The shower partition
25 wall should further be safe to operate and be able to cope with given operational conditions.

This task is solved according to the invention by arranging facing elements on the outer surface of the profile rails and/or corner joints

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The shower partition wall according to the invention excells in simple and low cost construction whereby the outer surfaces are protected by facing elements, so that a good visual impression is achieved throughout the whole of the life time of the shower partition wall. There is no difficulty in making said facing elements of a suitable material and avoiding damage of same on cleaning it.

Furthermore, by a suitable design of the facing elements the shower partition wall can be adapted to any installation site. Thus, a low cost production is made possible because, according to the wishes of the consumer, the required facing elements can be arranged on the profile rails and corner joints; which eliminates the high cost storage of profile rails with different outer surfaces.

In order to ensure a reliable and secure fastening of the facing elements the latter are set, in a preferred embodiment, into a groove or ~~channel~~ ^{recess} of the profile rails. The groove or ~~channel~~ ^{recess} guarantees a firm anchorage of the facing element which will stay firm in the profile rails even in case of heavy strain.

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Preferably, the groove will run in the longitudinal direction of the profile rail, so that no additional work is required. A facing element made as a long strip will be set in a simple way into this groove. Suitably, the facing element can be fixed with an adhesive in the groove. This

way, a simple and quick production of profile rail with facing element can be achieved. In a preferred embodiment the profile rail has, in the range of the outer surfaces, protrusions defining the groove 5 into which correspondingly shaped flanges of the facing element are received to securely locate the facing element on the profile rail. Thus, a secure and reliable fastening of the facing element in the profile rail is created. The facing element is pushed into the groove 10 longitudinally on production.

Preferably, the facing element, basically sector shaped, in the middle part of the corner joint, is connected with a screw in the vertical direction to the corner joint. It is simple to make such a 15 connection without impairing the rounded outer surface of the sector shaped facing element.

Further advantages of the characteristics of the invention are evident from the drawing and elucidated in the following description.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a representation of a corner joint of two profile rails arranged rectangularly to one another in exploded form showing the manner of assembly,

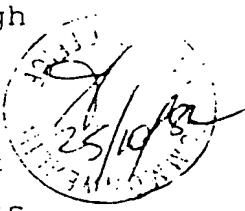
25 Fig. 2 is a section of the profile rail across the longitudinal direction,

Fig. 3 is a section of a further embodiment of a profile rail and

Fig. 4 is a section of another embodiment of the profile rail across the longitudinal direction.

30 In Fig. 1 a corner joint of two profile rails 2 and 4 of a shower partition wall is shown. This is a shower

partition wall with a corner entrance whereby a corner joint is illustrated which is arranged on the ceiling. Both profile rails 2 and 4 are thus the upper frame profiles in which are hung, in the known way, the doors of the shower partition wall in sliding fashion. Inside the profile rails are guiding rails 6, 8, 10 in which are hung the door elements (not shown). It goes without saying, that the length of the profile rails 2 and 4 respectively are adjusted in the direction of their longitudinal axes to the existing conditions. Similarly, the lower profile rails are connected to one another and also to the side frame profile rails, the latter also connected to the upper profile rails. Outer surfaces 14, 16, 18 of profile rails 2, 4 and of corner joint 20 are arranged essentially vertically. Facing elements 22, 24, 26 are arranged on said outer surfaces. Facing elements 22, 24 as well as brackets extending longitudinally to the profile rails are made of wood. Facing element 26 has a basically sector shape whose rounded front surface 28 is cylindrical. Facing element 26 is also made of wood. It must be emphasised that, although facing elements 22, 24, 26 are preferably made of wood, they can be made occasionally of other material. It must be particularly emphasised that at least surfaces 32, 34, 36 of the facing elements can be constructed in any shape to suite the environment. It can be seen from Fig. 1 that corner joint 20 has a middle part 38 which has a sector shaped ~~depression~~ ^{opening}. Into this ~~recession~~ 40 is set the sector shaped facing element 26, a screw 42 providing the fastening. The screw is, in a substantially vertical direction, screwed into a corresponding bore of the middle part 38 and



then into facing element 26. A cap 44 is then placed on top of middle part 38 so, that screw 42 becomes invisible. Corner joint 20 grips into the inner part of the profile rail with its ~~rectangularly~~ ^{orthogonally} arranged ^{lugs} 46, 48 which is fastened from the top by screws 50, 52. Further, screws 58, 60 are screwed into corresponding bores of the profile rails 2, 4 through side walls 54, 56 of the corner joint 20 arranged rectangularly to one another. A secure and reliable connection of profile rails 2, 4 is obtained by screws 58, 60. The facing element set subsequently into recession 40 will conceal screws 58, 60.

Fig. 2 shows a section of the profile rail 4 across its longitudinal axis 12. Profile rail 4 has above mentioned guide rails 6, 8, 10 inside it on which are arranged the door elements in sliding fashion. Outer surface 16 represented on the right of the drawing has facing element 24 arranged to it in groove 62. Profile rail 4 has two protrusions 64, 66 on its outer edge. Facing element 24 grips in with its ~~catches~~ ^{flanges} 68, 70 in the space behind said protrusions 64, 66. Facing element 24 must be pushed into profile rail 4 in the longitudinal direction, i.e. perpendicular to the plane of the drawing, when mounting. Facing element 24 pushed into the profile rail in this way is now securely connected to the profile rail.

A further embodiment of profile rail 4 is illustrated in Fig. 3. This also has a longitudinal groove. Facing element 24 is stuck into groove 62 by adhesive 72. This embodiment also provides a secure connection of profile rail 4 and facing

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element 24. The outer surface 16 of profile rail 4 has side ranges 17, 19 joining facing element 24 outward; side ~~ranges~~ 17, 19 are arranged in an angle with respect to the visible surface of facing element 24. It goes without saying that said slanted side ~~ranges~~ 17, 19 are arranged on a slope in opposite direction of the plane given by surface 25. The slanted side ~~ranges~~ facilitate the cleaning of the profile rail and lend the profile rail a special optical effect, special attention called to the pleasant appearance of a profile rail so constructed. Both side ~~ranges~~ 17, 19 are basically the same size, i.e. they have the same width basically. Thus, a most symmetrical shape of outer surface 16 is achieved. It is advantageous to have the width of facing element 24 at least approximately double of said side ~~ranges~~ 17, 19 whereby most attractive and balanced appearance of the outer surface 16 of the profile rail is obtained.

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A further embodiment of profile rail 4 according to Fig. 4 has, by way of comparison, short protrusions 74, 76. The latter protrude in the ~~side~~ range of outer surface 16 of facing element 24 into groove 62 in such a way, that facing element 24 must be pressed into groove 62, thus clipping it in. This embodiment provides an especially quick and reliable connection of facing element 24 with profile rail 4.

The embodiments of profile rail 4 have been elucidated with the aid of Figures 2 and 3. It goes without saying, that profile rail 2 is designed the same way. As explained in Fig. 3 profile

Portions

rail 4 has slanted side ~~ranges~~ 17, 19. Corner joint 20 elucidated in Fig. 1 also has, as it can be seen, slanted side ~~ranges~~ shaped correspondingly. The side ~~ranges~~ of profile rails 2 and 4 pass into the 5 corresponding side ~~ranges~~ of the corner joint according to the invention.

The shower partition wall described in the drawing can have the facing elements 22, 24, 26 made of different materials; the suitable material is chosen^{ance with the particular installation} according to ~~adaption to the installation~~ site. In a special embodiment of the shower partition wall according to the invention said facing elements are made of wood or have a wood structure at least in their surface. It is known that application of wood in moist rooms, i.e. in baths, showers ~~is presenting~~ ^{presents some} difficulties; however these are alleviated surprisingly by the design of the shower partition wall according to the invention. Facing elements made of wood or having a wood structure in their surface transmit to the viewer a shower partition wall accomplished basically of wood whereby the profile rails, particularly of extruded aluminium are not attacked by moisture or water vapour. Furthermore, the profile rails can be made small and in pleasant shape whilst the image of a shower partition wall made of wood is brought about by the facing elements made of wood or having a wood structure.



THE CLAIM DEFINING THE INVENTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. A support frame member adapted for use with a rigid shower partition wall, said member comprising a main body portion having a channel shaped section including opposed side portions and a web portion, one side portion on one side of the web portion and another side portion on the other side of the web portion, the channel section being open at one side opposed to the web portion thereby defining a mounting means for the rigid partition wall, and a recess located on the outer face in use of one of the side portions which is adapted to receive an interchangeable facing element in use, said recess having means for releasably mounting the facing element within the recess, the facing element being composed of a different material than the frame member.

DATED this 22nd day of September, 1982

GEORG HEINZ BAUS

by his Patent Attorneys

DAVIES & COLLISON

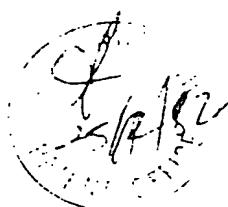
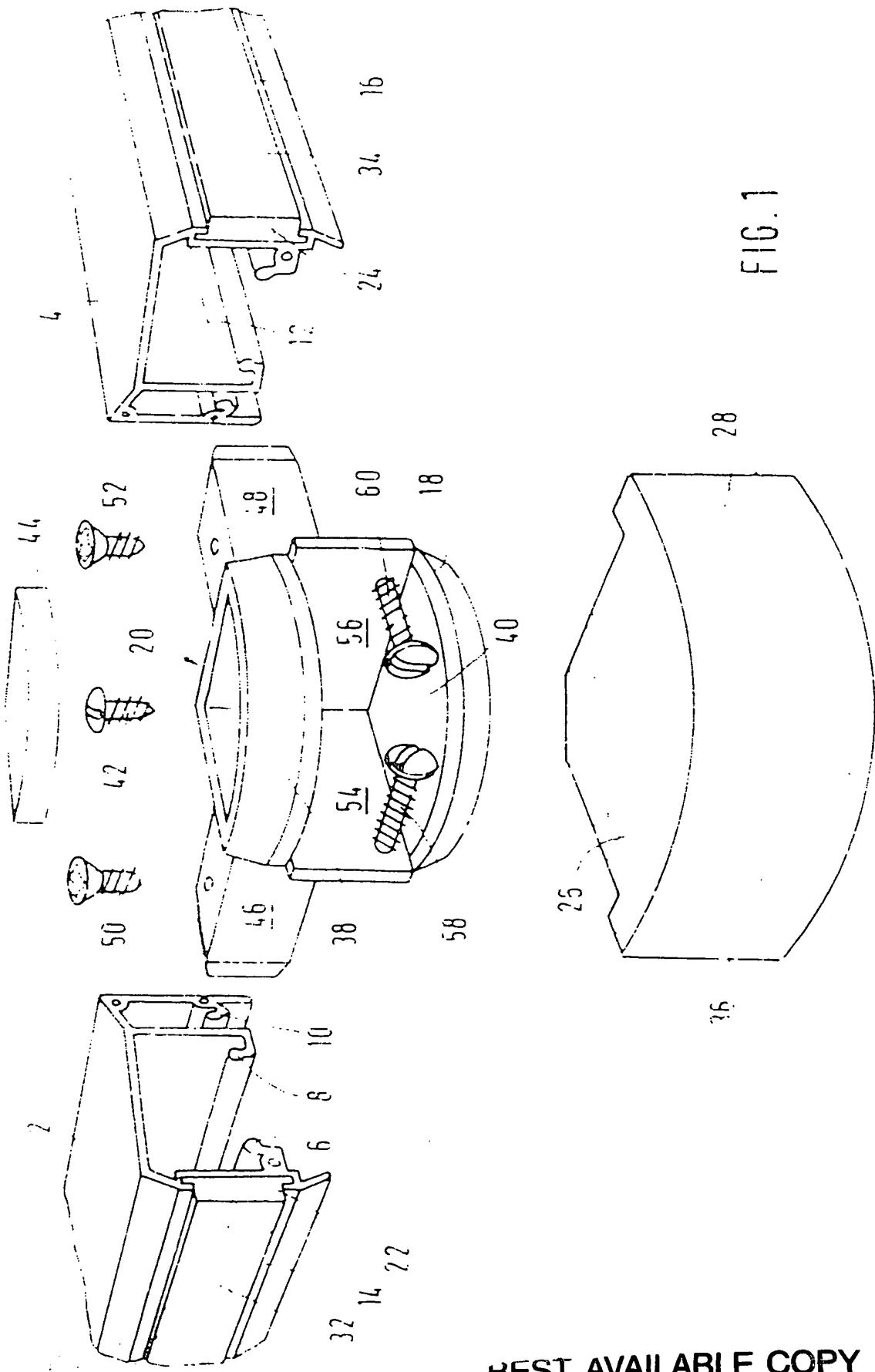


FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

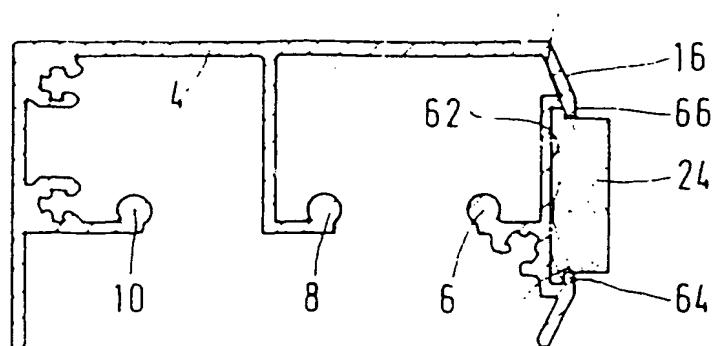


FIG. 3

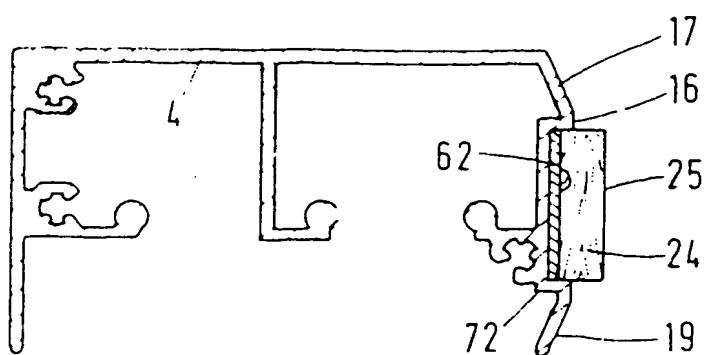
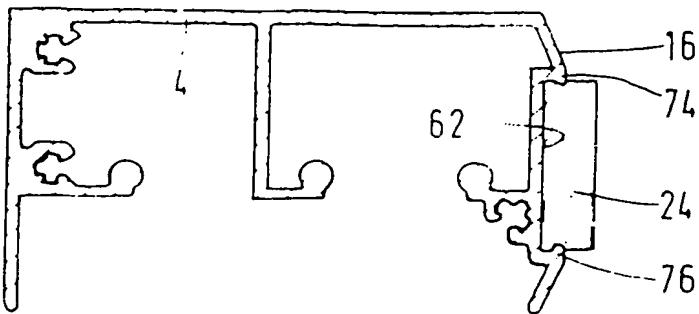


FIG. 4



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